

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A d~~Device~~ for attachment of a chute (4) onto an exit opening (15) of a hopper (3) conveying powder products into an electrolytic pot, ~~wherein: the chute comprising a~~  
~~body (5) and a tube (6), characterized in that~~

the hopper (3) comprises at least one chute attachment element, which is (7) fixed to the hopper[[,]] and which includes~~comprising~~ a bearing area that is substantially horizontal during use;[[,]] and ~~in that~~

the chute comprises a body and a tube, the body (5) of the chute (4) comprising at least one articulated attachment hook (9) articulated about a substantially horizontal axis during use, and designed to engage onto at least one~~the~~ attachment element of the hopper ~~or one of the attachment elements (7) of the hopper.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The d~~Device~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one attachment element ~~or each attachment element (7)~~ of the hopper is located radially at a distance from the exit opening (15) of the hopper, the at least one articulated attachment hook (~~or each attachment hook~~) (9) of the chute (4) ~~being~~ orientated outward[[s]] and ~~being~~ intended to engage from the inside toward[[s]] the outside onto the at least one attachment element (7) of the hopper; ~~or one of the attachment elements (7) of the hopper.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The d~~Device~~ according to ~~either claim 1 or 2~~, wherein~~characterized in that~~ the at least one attachment element ~~or each attachment element~~ of the hopper comprises a tab (7) of general vertical orientation during use with an opening, (8) forming an open or closed ring for engagement of the at least one ~~an~~ attachment hook (9).

4. (Currently Amended) The d~~Device~~ according to ~~either claim 1 or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one attachment element (7) is a single element and comprises a ring or an annular collar, with its orientation substantially horizontal during use, fixed to the hopper,

located at a specific distance from the exit opening (15) of the hopper and comprising a rim facing upwards to attach the attachment hook(s)-(9).

5. (Currently Amended) The dDevice according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 4, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ at least one attachment hook ~~or each attachment hook~~ of the chute (9) comprises an ~~so-called~~ "upper[["]]" part (12) located above the axis of articulation (10) during use, forming the hook itself, and a ~~so-called~~ "lower[["]]" part (13) located below the axis of articulation during use and comprising a ramp shaped surface (14) which, being on the opposite side to the open side of the hook ~~or each hook~~ (9), will tip the hook (9) toward[[s]] a detachment position, which enables it to be separated from the at least one ~~an~~ attachment element (7) of the hopper.

6. (Currently Amended) The dDevice according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the upper part and the lower part of the hook have mass and wherein the distribution of mass between the upper part (12) and the lower part (13) of the hook ~~(or each hook)~~, is such that it maintains the hook ~~(or each hook)~~ in an attachment position so that it can be fixed onto the hopper.

7. (Currently Amended) The dDevice according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~5, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ upper part (12) of the articulated hook ~~(or each articulated hook)~~ (9) is profiled to form a ramp enabling automatic pivoting of the hook(s) as it is ~~(they are)~~ brought upwards into contact with the at least one attachment element(s)-(7) of the hopper.

8. (Currently Amended) A hHopper (3) for conveying powder products into an electrolytic pot, onto which a chute (4) is fixed, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the hopper comprises at least one attachment element (7) fixed to the hopper, and ~~including~~ comprising a bearing area that is substantially horizontal during use.

9. (Currently Amended) The hHopper (3) according to claim 8, ~~wherein~~ characterized in that the at least one attachment element ~~(or each attachment element)~~ of the hopper (7) is located radially at a distance from the exit opening (15) of the hopper.

10. (Currently Amended) The hHopper (3) according to ~~either claim 8 or 9~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one attachment element ~~or each attachment element~~ comprises a tab ~~(7)~~ of general vertical direction during use with an opening ~~(8)~~ forming an open or closed ring for engagement of an attachment hook ~~(9)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The hHopper (3) according to ~~either claim 8 or 9~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one attachment element ~~(7)~~ is a single element and comprises a ring or an annular collar, with its orientation substantially horizontal during use, fixed to the hopper, located at a specific distance from the exit opening ~~(15)~~ of the hopper and comprising a rim facing upwards to attach one or more attachment hooks ~~(9)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A cChute (4) for conveying powder products into an electrolytic pot, to be fitted on a hopper ~~(3)~~ comprising a body ~~(5)~~ and a tube ~~(6)~~, ~~and characterized in that~~ ~~it~~ wherein the body comprises at least one hook ~~(9)~~ articulated about a substantially horizontal axis of articulation during use[[,]] and designed to engage onto ~~an~~ one attachment element ~~(7)~~ of the hopper.

13. (Currently Amended) The cChute (4) according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one articulated hook ~~or each articulated hook (9)~~ is orientated outward[[s]] and will engage from the inside toward[[s]] the outside onto an attachment element of the hopper ~~(7)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The cChute (4) according to ~~either claim 12 or 13~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one hook ~~or each hook (9)~~ comprises an so-called "upper[[" part ~~(12)~~ located above the axis of articulation ~~(10)~~ during use, forming the hook itself, and a so-called "lower[[" part ~~(13)~~ located below the axis of articulation during use and comprising a ramp shaped surface ~~(14)~~ which, ~~being on~~ is located toward the opposite side to the open side of the hook ~~or each hook (9)~~, ~~will~~ and is configured to tip the hook ~~(9)~~ toward[[s]] a position that will enable it to be separated from ~~the~~ an attachment element of the hopper ~~(7)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The cChute (4) according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 14~~ wherein characterized in that the distribution of mass between the upper part (12) and the lower part (13) of the hook(s) ~~(or each hook)~~ is such that it maintains the hook(s) ~~(or each hook)~~ in an attachment position so that it can be fixed onto a hopper.

16. (Currently Amended) The cChute (4) according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 15~~, characterized ~~in that claim 14~~, wherein the upper part (12) of the ~~at least one articulated hook (or each articulated hook) (9)~~ is profiled to form a ramp (14) enabling automatic pivoting of the at least one hook[[s]] as they are it is brought upwards into contact with ~~one or more the~~ attachment elements ~~(7)~~ of the hopper.

17. (Currently Amended) An accessory for assembly and disassembly of a chute (4) ~~according to any one of claims 12 to 16~~ onto a hopper, wherein the accessory (3) ~~according to any one of claims 8 to 11~~, characterized ~~in that~~ it comprises means to displace the chute (4) vertically and means for actuating the one or more attachment hooks ~~(or each attachment hook) (9)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The aAccessory according to claim 17, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the vertical displacement means comprise an open ring (16) intended to engage around the chute (4) and will apply upward pressure on the body (5) of the chute to be able to lift it, and which is configured to be installed at the end of an actuation device such as a rod ~~(17)~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The aAccessory according to ~~either claim 17 or 18~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the means ~~for of actuating on of the hook or each~~ the one or more attachment hooks (9) comprises an open ring (20) that is configured ~~intended~~ to engage around the body (5) of the chute (4) and will lean against a ramp (14) of the at least one hook ~~or each hook (9)~~ to tip it toward a position that enables it to be separated from ~~an~~ the attachment element (7) of the hopper, and which is installed at the end of an actuation device such as a rod (22).

20. (Currently Amended) The aAccessory according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 19~~, wherein the accessory ~~characterized in that~~ it comprises a fixed or a removable rack (18) typically arranged on the superstructure (2) of an electrolytic cell, the rack comprising ~~at least one notch (19, 23)~~

intended to form a bearing point for ~~one or for each~~ the actuation device (17, 22) of an open ring (16, 20).

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A m~~Method of assembling and disassembling a chute on a hopper for implementation of ~~the an attachment device, according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that it including~~ es (1) creating a vertical displacement of the chute (4) with respect to the hopper (3) to which brings one or more the attachment hooks(s) (9) into a position in which they are above one or more the attachment elements(s) (7), followed by (2) actuating on of the one or more attachment hooks(s) (9) to detach the one or more attachment elements it (them), or actuating on of the one or more attachment hook(s) (9) to attach the one or more attachment elements it (them), depending on whether the purpose is to remove or to install the chute.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The m~~Method according to claim 21, ~~wherein step 1 characterized in that it includes use of an the accessory according to any one of claims 17 to 20.~~

23. (Currently Amended) ~~An e~~Electrolytic cell comprising:
- a. at least one hopper comprising at least one attachment element fixed to the at least one hopper and a bearing area that is substantially horizontal during use; and
  - b. ~~(3) according to any one of claims 8 to 11 and / or at least one chute (4) according to any one of claims 12 to 16, fixed onto a hopper to convey powder products to~~ the cell, the chute comprising a body, a tube and at least one hook articulated about a substantially horizontal axis of articulation during use and designed to engage onto the at least one attachment element.